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(12) **United States Patent**
Reed et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,546,399 B1**
 (45) **Date of Patent: *Apr. 8, 2003**

(54) **MULTIMEDIA SEARCH SYSTEM**

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(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) **Appl. No.:** 08/202,985

(22) **Filed:** Feb. 28, 1994

(Under 37 CFR 1.47)

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/113,955, filed on Aug. 13, 1993, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 07/426,917, filed on Oct. 26, 1989, now Pat. No. 5,241,671.

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** G06F 17/30

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 707/104.1

(58) **Field of Search** 707/104.1

(56)

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ABSTRACT

A database search system that retrieves multimedia information in a flexible, user friendly system. The search system uses a multimedia database consisting of text, picture, audio and animated data. That database is searched through multiple graphical and textual entry paths. Those entry paths include an idea search, a title finder search, a topic tree search, a picture explorer search, a history timeline search, a world atlas search, a researcher's assistant search, and a feature articles search.

75 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets

